

REMARKS

Please reconsider the application in view of the above amendment and the following remarks. Applicant thanks the Examiner for the Advisory Action dated November 22, 2006, and for carefully considering this application.

Disposition of Claims

Claims 1-4 were pending in this application. Claim 3, which was indicated by the Examiner to be allowable if rewritten in independent form, has been rewritten in independent form as suggested by the Examiner. Consistent with the amendment of claim 3, claim 2 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Therefore, claims 1 and 3-4 are currently pending in this application. Claims 1 and 3 are independent. Claim 4 depends from claim 3.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102

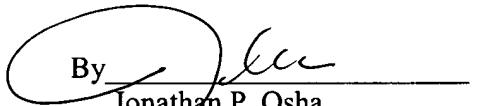
Claim 2 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (e) as being anticipated by US Patent Publication No. 2002/0007487 to Matsumoto *et al.* (hereinafter “Matsumoto”). Claim 2 has been canceled by way of this reply without prejudice or disclaimer. Therefore, this rejection is now moot.

Conclusion

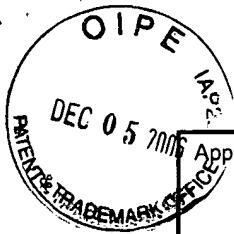
Applicant believes this reply is fully responsive to all outstanding issues and places this application in condition for allowance. If this belief is incorrect, or other issues arise, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned or his associates at the telephone number listed below. Please apply any charges not covered, or any credits, to Deposit Account 50-0591 (Reference Number 04536/029001).

Dated: December 5, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

By 

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Application No. (if known): 10/736,085

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